

The Management of Giant Salvinia by Biological Control On the lower Colorado River

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The Lower Colorado River Giant Salvinia Task Force has tried a series of activities to control and eradicate Giant Salvinia since 1999. Since, these efforts have not been satisfactory, biological control using the weevil *Cyrtobagous salviniae* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) has been applied at the lower Colorado River by APHIS USDA branches of California and Arizona. They have released the weevil at four sites and additional two sites in the summer of 2003 and 2004, respectively. We have monitored physico-chemical and biological parameters at release and near release sites (10m and 1km down stream). Although, the weevils have favorably over-wintered in winter of 2003, the success of natural dispersal and establishment of colony has not been decided. The integrated and continuous management (physical, chemical, and biological methods) requires accomplishing to control the Giant Salvinia in the Lower Colorado River.